

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of fabricating an array of multiple features of different chemical moieties on a substrate surface, comprising:
 - (a) determining an identity of a first direction across the substrate surface along which the substrate surface has a higher height uniformity than along a second direction across the substrate; and
 - (b) placing the chemical moieties on the substrate so as to provide features thereon along rows more closely aligned with the first direction than the second direction.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the different chemical moieties are biopolymers.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the determining comprises measuring the thickness of the substrate at different positions.
4. A method of fabricating an array of multiple features of different chemical moieties on a substrate surface, comprising:
 - (a) receiving the substrate from a remote location;
 - (a) receiving from a remote location in association with the substrate, an identification of a first direction across the substrate surface along which the substrate surface has a higher height uniformity than along a second direction across the substrate;
 - (b) placing the chemical moieties on the substrate so as to provide features thereon along rows more closely aligned with the first direction than the second direction.
5. A method according to claim 1 additionally comprising associating with the array an identification as to the direction of the rows and forwarding the array and associated identification to a remote location.
6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the forwarding of the identification comprises applying an identifier on the substrate or a housing for the substrate, and saving the identification in a memory in association with the identifier.

7. A method according to claim 5 wherein the identification comprises reference to a shape characteristic of the substrate or a housing for the substrate.
8. A method according to claim 1 wherein the substrate is rectangular and the first and second directions extend perpendicularly between respective sets of opposite edges of the substrate.
9. A method according to claim 1 wherein the rows are parallel with the first direction.
10. A method of fabricating an array of multiple features of different chemical moieties on a drawn substrate, comprising:
 - (a) determining an identity of a drawn direction of the substrate;
 - (b) placing the chemical moieties on the substrate so as to provide features thereon along linear rows oriented adjacent the drawn direction.
11. A method according to claim 10 wherein the determining comprises measuring the thickness of the substrate.
12. A method of fabricating an array of multiple features of different chemical moieties on a surface of a drawn substrate, comprising:
 - (a) receiving the drawn substrate from a remote location;
 - (a) receiving from a remote location in association with the substrate, an identification of the drawn direction; and
 - (b) placing the chemical moieties on the substrate surface so as to provide features thereon along linear rows oriented parallel to the drawn direction.
13. A method according to claim 10 wherein the rows are parallel with the drawn direction.
14. A method according to claim 11 wherein the substrate is rectangular and the drawn direction extends perpendicular to and between opposite edges of the substrate.

15. A method according to claim 10 additionally comprising associating with the array an identification as to the direction of the rows and forwarding the array and associated identification to a remote location.

16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the forwarding of the identification comprises applying an identifier on the substrate or a housing for the substrate, and saving the identification in a memory in association with the identifier.

17. A method according to claim 15 wherein the identification comprises reference to shape characteristic of the substrate or a housing for the substrate.

18. A method of fabricating an array of multiple linear rows of features of different chemical moieties on a surface of a drawn rectangular substrate, comprising:

- (a) receiving the drawn substrate from a remote location;
- (a) determining an identity of a drawn direction of the substrate; and
- (b) placing the chemical moieties on the substrate surface so as to provide features thereon along linear rows oriented parallel to the drawn direction, wherein the placing comprises:
 - (i) depositing drops onto the surface from a drop deposition head while moving the head along one of the rows parallel with the drawn direction;
 - (ii) repeating step (i) multiple times, each time at another one of the rows parallel with the drawn direction, so as to form the array.

19. A method according to claim 18 wherein the determining comprises receiving an identification of the drawn direction from a remote location in association with the substrate.

20. A method of reading an array of multiple features of different chemical moieties on a substrate surface, the array having rows of features, comprising:

- (a) determining an identity of a first direction across the substrate surface along which the substrate thickness has a higher height uniformity than along a second direction across the substrate; and

(b) repeatedly scanning an illuminating beam across features in parallel paths which are more closely aligned with the first direction than the second direction.

21. A method according to claim 20 wherein the determining is based on an identifier carried on the substrate or a housing for the substrate.

22. A method according to claim 21 wherein the determining is performed by retrieving an identification of the first direction from the identifier.

23. A method according to claim 21 wherein the determining is performed by retrieving an identification of the first direction from a memory in response to providing the identifier.

24. A method of reading an array of multiple features of different chemical moieties arranged on a surface of a drawn rectangular substrate in linear rows extending parallel to a direction in which the substrate was drawn, comprising:

- (a) determining an identity of a drawn direction of the substrate;
- (b) scanning an illuminating beam sequentially along multiple rows of the array and parallel to the drawn direction.

25. A method according to claim 20 wherein the determining is based on an identifier on the substrate or a housing for the substrate.

26. A method according to claim 20 wherein the determining comprises measuring the thickness of the substrate at different positions.